

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 9, which were withdrawn from consideration, have been canceled and claims 10 and 11 have been canceled. Claim 20 has been amended and claims 12 to 19 now depend from claim 20. Claim 21 has been added. Claims 12 to 21 are now active in this application.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zommer ((U.S. 6,091,086), claims 10 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolam et al. (U.S. 6,492,684) in view of Yu et al. (U.S. 5,314,843) and claims 10,11, 13, 14, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolam et al. in view of Ibok (U.S. 6,593,637). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The invention as now more clearly claimed requires that the scribe seal be at the scribe lines to prevent any impurities from entering any portion of the final device being fabricated and be formed prior to processing steps to prevent the ingress of impurities into active regions as an initial step. No such steps are taught or suggested in any of the cited references. In Bolam et al., the isolation barrier is formed surrounding the gate, first metal contact, second metal contact and third metal contact to define an active chip area inside the isolation barrier.

More specifically, claim 20 requires, among other steps, applying a mask to the substrate to form apertures over scribe area portions of the substrate. No such step is taught or suggested by any of the cited references either alone or in any proper combination.

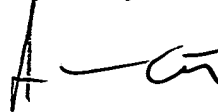
Claim 20 further requires, after the steps of implanting a buffer material, selected to impede mobile charge ingress, through the aperture into the insulator layer within the substrate and annealing the buffer material, then scribing said substrate along the apertures. No such steps are taught or suggested by any of the cited references either alone or in any proper combination.

Claim 21 further limits claim 21 by requiring the step of then forming devices within the apertures subsequent to the step of annealing. No such step is taught or suggested in the claimed combination by any of the cited references either alone or in any proper combination.

Claims 12 to 19 depend from claim 20 and therefore define patentably over the applied references for at least the reasons presented above with reference to claim 20.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay M. Cantor", is written over a horizontal line.

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